

THE MEDITERRANEAN FRUIT FLY INFESTS FLORIDA AGAIN: EARLY CHRONOLOGY

April 13, 1956: Mr. O. L. Prior, 93 N.W. 93rd Street, Miami Shores, Florida, found insect larvae in grapefruit that he was preparing to eat. He called the Miami Herald and they referred him to the Assistant County Agent Douglas M. Knapp. Mr. Knapp carried the larvae to Dr. D. O. Wolfenbarger, Entomologist, at the Sub-Tropical Experiment Station, Homestead. Dr. Wolfenbarger recognized the possibility of these larvae being Mediterranean fruit fly (*Ceratitidis capitata* [Wied.]). He contacted Mr. C. E. Shepard, regional inspector for the State Plant Board. One larva was forwarded to the entomological department at Gainesville, and two larvae were forwarded to Dr. W. L. Popham, Director of the Crops Regulatory Program, Agricultural Research Service, Washington, D.C. A tentative determination of Mediterranean fruit fly was made of the larvae by the State Plant Board and by Dr. R. H. Foote, Federal fruit fly identification specialist for the Bureau.

April 18, 1956: Mr. Ed L. Ayers, the Plant Commissioner, directed Mr. H. A. Denmark, Acting Chief Entomologist, to go to the infested area in Miami to collect adults with McPhail traps.

April 19: Mr. Denmark met C. E. Shepard and E. F. Miles and traps were set up on the properties of Messrs. Prior, 93 N.W. 93rd Street, Dario Mazzoleni, 71 N.W. 93rd Street, and A. Scheeschmidt, 101 N.W. 93rd Street. Eleven adults of the Mediterranean fruit fly were collected in the McPhail traps on the property of Mr. Prior at 8:30 p.m. Mr. Shepard was notified, and a night letter was sent to Dr. Popham as follows: "CAUGHT MEDITERRANEAN FRUIT FLY IN SWEET BAIT TRAPS. AM FORWARDING SPECIMENS."

April 20: Nine more adults were caught on Mr. Prior's property. Three adults were caught on Mr. Scheeschmidt's property, and one adult on Mr. Mazzoleni's property.

A visit was made to the Sub-Tropical Experiment Station to inform Dr. Wolfenbarger that the infestation was definitely Mediterranean fruit fly. The information was released to the public on April 23 by Mr. Jack Matthews from Lakeland.

April 21: Seven more adults were caught on Mr. Prior's property, and one adult on Mr. Mazzoleni's property. Mr. Shepard and the inspectors for the Miami area continued to scout areas around the original infestation, and spread out in each direction for several blocks. Infestations were located at 9826 N.W. First Avenue, 148 N.W. 90th Street, 3078 91st Street, 85 N.W. 94th Street, 93 N.W. 97th Street, and 78 N.W. 95th Street.

April 23: One more adult was collected on Mr. Prior's property. The traps were picked up and relocated. One trap was placed at 1958 N.W. 42nd Avenue at the edge of a tomato field, since the owner suspected his tomatoes to be infested. All tomatoes examined were infested with *Euxesta* sp. No Mediterranean flies were caught in the McPhail trap. A second trap was located at 7425 S.W. 2nd Street, the third trap at 308 E. 9th Street, the 4th trap at 301 E. 16th Street, Hialeah. The 5th trap was placed at 2984 E. 6th Avenue, the 6th at 710 E. 39th Street, the 7th at 597 E. 38th Street, and the 8th and 9th at 4435 E. 8th Avenue.

Dr. R. H. Foote, of the U. S. National Museum, arrived the evening of the 23rd, and plans were discussed for setting up a laboratory to make determinations.

April 24: Messrs. Ed L. Ayers, N. O. Berry, R. H. Foote, and H. A. Denmark met at the Cortez Hotel to make plans for a survey and trapping for the fruit fly. Mr. Ayers set up his headquarters at the office of the County Agent, at 2690 N.W. 7th Avenue.

Spraying and picking crews were located at E. 4th Avenue and 131st Street, Hialeah Race Track. Dr. R. H. Foote, G. W. Dekle, and H. A. Denmark are located at 2204 Salzedo Street, Coral Gables, at the office of the Wild Cotton Eradication crew. Mr. N. O. Berry was also located at this address to conduct large-scale McPhail trapping.

April 20: Mr. Berry arranged for three thousand traps and eight men to arrive in Miami on April 30. He planned to use partially hydrolyzed yeast portein as an attractant.

April 27: A meeting of the State Plant Board was held at the Chamber of Commerce building to discuss the plan of eradication of the Mediterranean fruit fly. Mr. Fred H. Kent, Chairman of the Board, and Governor LeRoy Collins attended this meeting and offered their support to a program to eradicate the fly. Mr. Ayers gave a general review of the fruit fly situation to date, and Mr. Berry was called upon to express his opinion of the situation and the size of the task. Mr. Berry estimated a campaign of two to three years. Mr. E. P. Reagan explained the condition of baggage inspection, which needs revision according to him and Mr. Ayers. Mr. Reagan has made an on-the-spot-check of the Mediterranean fruit fly situation in Costa Rica, which is the closest infestation to the United States. Mr. H. G. Clayton, Director of the Extension Service, pledged his support and offered the help of any of the county agents in the areas of infestation. Dr. Ralph Miller, member of the State Plant Board, reviewed the situation and emphasized the importance of an eradication program. Senator Jim Haley pledged his support and offered to do everything possible to get federal aid.

April 27: There were 89 infestations that had been positively determined as the Mediterranean fruit fly. The infestation extends as far north as Hollywood in Broward County. Six infestations have been located on Miami Beach to the east; 3 infestations have been located in Hialeah to the west; and one infestation extends to Kendall on the south. The heaviest infestations are located in the Miami Shores area.

April 27-28: Fruit picking began in the Miami Shores area and in the Biscayne Park area April 28.

April 30: Spraying operations began with ground equipment. The equipment was furnished by the State Plant Board and additional equipment was hired from B. & L. Farms.

May 3: Mr. Wilber Charles was appointed to direct the Mediterranean fruit fly campaign. Mr. E. G. Donahue was placed in charge of road blocks. Their office is located at 2690 N.W. 7th Avenue, Miami, 37.

May 4: Messrs. N. O. Berry, W. R. Heard and F. D. Bittner, H. A. Denmark and W. Charles met to organize the trapping of the fruit fly in the citrus belt as far north as Marion County. Mr. Berry, USDA, in charge of the trapping operations and located at 2204 Salzedo Street, Coral Gables, made arrangements for county agents, production managers and/or

Plant Board Inspectors to operate the McPhail traps. The traps will be inspected once or twice a week and specimens sent to the Miami office for determination.

The attractant for the fruit fly is 2 pounds of partially hydrolyzed yeast protein, 2 pounds ammonium chloride, which is added to enough water to make 5 gallons. This will bait approximately 50 traps. The bait sprays consist of 2 pounds of 25% wettable malathion, 1 pound of partially hydrolyzed yeast protein, or 2 pounds of sauce bait No. 2 in 100 gallons of water.

Messrs. H. A. Denmark, in charge of determinations, and G. W. Dekle are located at 2308 Salzedo Street, Coral Gables.

Mr. C. E. Shepard, in charge of field operations, under whose directions fruit inspection, supervised by Mr. K. P. Bragdon, spraying, supervised by Mr. L. W. Holley, clean-up and fruit picking supervised by Mr. T. E. Whitmore, and Mr. G. B. Ellis, assistant to Mr. Shepard, are located at E. 31st and 4th Avenue, Hialeah.

A fumigation station will be set up at the Hialeah Race Track. Eight ounces per 1000 cubic feet of ethylene dibromide for a period of 2 hours, under supervision of a Plant Board man, will be used for citrus, and 10 ounces for the same period of time and area will be used for mangoes. Green, wrapped tomatoes and green limes will not have to be fumigated.

Road blacks have been set up on highways: Fla. A1A, US 441, and Fla. 27 (Krome Avenue) leading to US 41.

May 14: Kendall remains the southernmost point of infestation and Pompano Beach the northernmost.

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State Plant Board,
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